

**City Council of the City of New Castle
Special Council Meeting at Town Hall
201 Delaware Street – New Castle
Friday – November 15, 2013 – 6:30 p.m.**

Call to order: 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call:

Councilperson Megginson
Councilperson Cochran
Council President Barthel
Councilperson Petty
Councilperson Vannucci

Also present:

Donald Reese, Mayor
Daniel Losco, City Solicitor
Janet Carlin, City Treasurer
Marian C. Delaney, Finance/HR Manager

Council President William Barthel opened the meeting by stating briefly that the reason for the meeting was to accept the position as City administrator offered to him by Council. In order for him to take the position he added that he needed to resign as Council President. President Barthel added that Council would attempt to appoint a new Council President at this meeting as well. At this point President Barthel asked the City Solicitor, Daniel Losco to explain the process.

Mr. Losco stated that in accordance with the City Charter, any vacancy on Council be determined and filled by a vote of the remaining Council members, they may not vote for one of their own body. It must be a person not presently on Council. That person would serve until the next regularly scheduled municipal election.

President Barthel stated, for the record at the regular Council meeting this was announced, and Council is aware of the process.

Mr. Losco added that throughout the process of looking for a City Administrator, the City hired one candidate, that employment was quickly terminated by the appointee. Since that time there had been discussion in executive session as to whether or not President Barthel would assume the position and would be willing to resign his position and to take on the responsibilities of City Administrator. Mr. Losco added that in reality President Barthel has been acting as City Administrator since the middle of March when Ms. Thomas resigned from the position.

President Barthel read his letter of resignation, and then turned the meeting over to Councilperson Ted Megginson. Councilperson took over the meeting, and thanked Mr. Barthel for considering taking the position as City Administrator, adding that since the middle of March he had been doing both jobs.

Councilperson Megginson called for a motion to hire William Barthel as City Administrator for the City of New Castle. Councilperson Cochran made the motion, and it was seconded by Councilperson Vannucci.

Councilperson Megginson read Resolution 2013-43, and asked Council if they wanted to make any comments, Council offered their thanks for stepping in as City Administrator during the time when the City was without one, and also offered their congratulations, and well wishes for Mr. Barthel in his new position.

Councilperson Megginson called for a vote, Resolution was carried unanimously.

Councilperson Megginson called for nominations for a new Council President. Councilperson Cochran nominated Mrs. Linda Ratchford. Being no further nominations Councilperson Megginson asked Mrs. Ratchford answer some questions.

Councilperson Megginson asked Mrs. Ratchford why she was interested in the position of Council President. Mrs. Ratchford replied that she feels New Castle is a special place, and she has a real passion for helping New Castle, and making it a better place. Mrs. Ratchford added that she understand the heritage of New Castle, having lived here over 30 years, she wants build on that heritage, but also look towards the future for the vitality of all the neighborhoods within the City.

Councilperson Megginson asked Mrs. Ratchford if she felt her skills and experience were a good fit for this position. Mrs. Ratchford stated that yes; she did feel she was a good fit, having a long business career in marketing and customer service. She has been in leadership positions as a supervisor of a large number of employees, and has managed multi-million dollar budgets. Mrs. Ratchford added that she worked with people in the union, government and industry. Mrs. Ratchford stated that she felt all of these skills and her knowledge New Castle prepares her for the position of Council President.

Councilperson Megginson asked Mrs. Ratchford if she would resign from any organizations she was currently a member of, if there might be a conflict of interest. Mrs. Ratchford stated that effective today (November 15, 2013) she was resigning from any board positions she currently holds.

Councilperson Megginson asked Council if they had any questions, Councilperson Petty stated that she had spoken to Mrs. Ratchford and found her very credible and gave her endorsement to Mrs. Ratchford, the remaining members of Council concurred.

Councilperson Megginson asked for a motion to present this position to Mrs. Ratchford, Motion was made by Councilperson Petty and seconded by Councilperson Vannucci.

Councilperson Megginson called for a vote, the resolution was carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Burgmuller